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Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication

Conclusions and recommendations for addressing key challenges of forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report sets out conclusions and recommendations for the consideration of the United Nations Forum on Forests in addressing the key challenges in the context of the overall theme of the ninth session, "Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication", based mainly on the reports of the Secretary-General entitled "Community-based forest management" and "Forests for people: cultural and social values of forests and social development" (E/CN.18/2011/4 and E/CN.18/2011/5). Forests have significant potential to enhance livelihoods, social development and contributions to poverty eradication throughout the world. In order for forests to be a truly sustainable natural resource and to effectively improve the well-being of people, a number of policies and programmes are needed at the local, national, regional and international levels. The range of policy programmes includes good forest governance, tenure security, access and benefits, local participation, cross-sectoral and landscape-level policy frameworks and increased funding and political commitment at all levels. The many emerging opportunities in the context of forests include those related to climate change, payments for ecosystem services, the provision of water, forest landscape restoration and the transition to a green economy.

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I. Introduction

1. The history of human existence and civilizations is intertwined with that of forests and trees. Forests are crucial because of the goods and services that they provide, on which people all over the world are dependent to varying degrees. Forests are deeply rooted in people's social, cultural and spiritual spheres. Examples of lifestyles intertwined with forests abound on all continents. Many farming, silvopastoral, hunter-gatherer and other land-based livelihoods are linked with forests and forest health. A number of religions, faiths and spiritual traditions have links to trees, plants, forests and animals. In addition, forests and wildlife are a source of folklore and spirituality. Traditional forest-related knowledge accumulated over thousands of years is both woven into the fabric of societies and deeply intertwined with the cultures of indigenous and forest-dependent peoples.

2. Despite the policy and political significance attached to global poverty in recent years, in particular within the framework of the Millennium Development Goals, the eradication of poverty remains a critical challenge in many developing countries. While significant progress is being made in many emerging economies, poverty is being exacerbated by the current global economic and financial crisis. In this regard, it is worth noting that at least 1.6 billion people still directly depend on forests for their livelihoods and that the majority of them are poor and live in and around forests. Approximately 60 million people, mainly members of indigenous and local communities, reside in forests. More than 60 million people are employed by forest-based industries (wood, pulp and paper and other processing plants).[1] The annual value of wood removed from forests is estimated to be more than $100 billion. According to *State of the World's Forests 2007*, in 2004 1.6 billion m^3 of wood products were removed from forests and the total value of trade in forest products reached $327 billion.[2]

3. Although people who reside in rural areas in or around forests tend to rely more heavily and directly on forests for their livelihoods, the benefits of forests for urban populations (raw materials, clean water, clean air, recreation and quality of life), even if seemingly indirect, are no less substantial. Forests and trees in cities or in the countryside nearby are recognized in most societies as providing much-needed recreational opportunities and relief from the stresses of modern life, thus playing an important therapeutic and emotional support role. Forests convey a sense of purity and closeness to nature, so it is understandable that people around the world are aware of and concerned about the high rates of deforestation and forest degradation. Given the increasing awareness of environmental problems and global climate change and their impact on humans and ecosystems, the public is sensitive to the critical functions of forests and deeply concerned about their loss. Forests and trees have become symbols of the need for change and for commitments to new ways of living. Forests now symbolize a way forward.

4. The overall theme of the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, "Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication", is more than a notional theme, focusing as it does on the core relationship between humankind and

[1] W. V. Street and S. Price, *TFD Review: Advancing Poverty Reduction and Rural Livelihoods through Sustainable Commercial Forestry*, TFD Publication No. 4 (New Haven, The Forest Dialogue, 2009).

[2] See ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/009/a0773e/a0773e09.pdf.

this unique gift of nature. The multi-year programme of work of the Forum for the period 2007-2015 identified the theme as a priority focus for the ninth session. It is clustered into three specific sub-themes, addressing (a) community-based forest management; (b) the social and cultural aspects of forests; and (c) social development and indigenous and other local and forest-dependent communities, including forest land tenure. The Secretary-General has submitted to the General Assembly two reports providing background information on those three sub-themes, entitled "Community-based forest management" (E/CN.18/2011/4) and "Forests for people: cultural and social values of forests and social development" (E/CN.18/2011/5). The first addresses the issues covered by sub-theme (a) and the second those covered by sub-themes (b) and (c).

5. The present report presents a comprehensive set of conclusions and recommendations related to the sub-themes, for the purpose of facilitating focused policy discussions on the part of the Forum. The report draws upon information contained in the report of the international expert meeting, a country-led initiative, on the theme "Forests for people: the role of national forest programmes and the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests", held in Guilin, China, in November 2009; the report of the workshop, a country-led initiative, on the theme "Forest governance and REDD+ in Latin America and the Caribbean", held in Oaxaca, Mexico, in September 2010; and the report of the workshop, a major group-led initiative, on the theme "Applying sustainable forest management to poverty reduction: strengthening the multi-stakeholder approach within the United Nations Forum on Forests", held in Accra in July 2010.

6. Owing to the close links between and overlap of the issues covered under the overall theme and the sub-themes, the present report should be considered jointly with the reports of the Secretary-General referred to in paragraph 4 above.

7. The present report contains three sections. Section II sets out conclusions on issues related to the interaction of forests and people and the role played by forests and trees in livelihoods and poverty eradication. Section III set out a number of recommendations addressed specifically to Member States, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, donors and the international community and to the Forum secretariat.

II. Conclusions

8. Forests can be an engine both for rural economic development and prosperity and for "poverty traps", depending on societal choices and the policies that result. There are many examples of underdeveloped areas with poor people living near rich forests, giving rise to the argument that forest-dependent communities are de facto living in poverty. However, experience has shown that when forests are destroyed through unsustainable practices, such people become even poorer and more vulnerable owing to the degradation of the ecosystems on which they depended. Where forests are sustainably managed and products processed and utilized in harmony with societal needs, forests can contribute significantly to alleviating poverty and creating forest-based enterprises and service sectors. Thus, a clear political commitment to develop and implement policies that make forests work for people's welfare is of key importance. Accordingly, the Forum may wish to deliberate on how forests can more effectively support forest-dependent indigenous

and rural communities so that such communities can emerge from subsistence livelihoods and the associated effects of poverty, including high rates of infant mortality, shorter life spans, lack of opportunities for income generation and wealth creation, and limited access to education and health services.

9. A forest is as much a social and political reality as it is a biophysical entity, owing to the involvement of diverse stakeholders (smallholders, Government management agencies, conservation groups and forest industries) and their often conflicting interests with regard to how forests are managed. The management of forest resources, therefore, requires the application of the principles of sociology, political science and human behaviour, as well as those of forest sciences.

10. Countries have put in place a number of policy and market mechanisms to enhance the conservation, management and sustainable development of forests to benefit current and future generations. They include strict protection under State control, private ownership and market development and community-based forest management. But, as is clear from the reports of the Secretary-General (E/CN.18/2011/4 and E/CN.18/2011/5), much needs to be done to change the situation of poverty associated with forests and to achieve sustainable forest management.

A. Forests and social development

11. For all poor rural people, access to food, fuel, water and medicine is vital, and forests complement products obtained from the farm to meet those needs. Women and children in many rural communities have to spend a large part of their time collecting fuelwood, fodder and subsistence foods from forests. Women and children whose rights are abused and well-being harmed while working in forests face great hardship. Poor people, irrespective of gender and age, are more dependent on forests for their subsistence than wealthier people. With better management and an enabling institutional and policy environment, forests can become a significant mechanism through which to reduce poverty, increase resilience and create enterprises and service sectors based on sustainable forest management. Such an approach should build on linkages between forests, agriculture and other development sectors in an integrated and multisectoral manner, promoting small and medium-sized forest enterprises and community-company partnerships.

12. The valuation of forest goods and services and the development of mechanisms to realize monetary returns from them are important policy and regulatory actions which allow for the appreciation of forest values, thereby contributing more effectively to human well-being. In this regard, a number of nascent "payment for ecosystem services" initiatives have shown the positive possibilities of valuing and paying for such forest ecosystem services as carbon sequestration, water-quality maintenance, biodiversity conservation and soil conservation, which are vital for human well-being. Such initiatives have been expanding over the past decade, in particular through the mechanisms being developed in the context of climate change negotiations, most recently through reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries (REDD+), with a focus on substantial funding opportunities and incentives for combating deforestation. While such new funding

offers potential benefits, because of its focus on combating deforestation, the majority of countries are excluded from receiving such benefits at present. Among other forest-based ecosystem services, maintaining and improving the hydrological cycle to ensure an adequate supply of clean water, including the provision of potable water for rural and urban populations and for agricultural purposes, are critical to people's livelihoods.

B. The cultural values of forests

13. Human interactions with forests have given rise to many cultural and spiritual values in all societies. Although such values are intangible, they are manifested in various ways and forms and are critical to the cultural identities of communities.

14. Investment in social capital would accelerate the development process, thereby contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. With rising standards of living and greater social awareness, the perception of forests as a free, inexhaustible resource will also change. Trees and forests can provide an important means of capital formation and address poverty-related problems in forest-dependent communities, while effective governance can reduce or halt the loss or degradation of forests. Thus, poverty eradication policy and sustainable forest management policy should go hand in hand.

C. Forest governance and tenure security

15. In the last three decades, forest rights and governance have changed in unprecedented ways, in particular with respect to the relationships between communities and Governments. That period has seen greater openness on the part of forest decision-makers regarding the involvement of local populations in governance and in sharing the benefits derived from forests. If forests are to be people-centred, it is paramount that policymakers and forest managers listen to people so as to determine what they want and need from forests, calling for bottom-up, participatory equitable forest-management approaches. It is critical that that trend continue and be made more secure in the future in order for the voices of people to be incorporated into forest governance.

16. Good governance, which provides a sound enabling environment for investment, tenure security, the rule of law, participatory approaches to decision-making and efficient bureaucracies, is a prerequisite for any effort to bring forests under sustainable management with a view to contributing to the health and well-being of people.

17. Tenure and associated rights and responsibilities are prerequisites for the sustainability of any natural resource, including forests. In policy deliberations on forests, therefore, tenure security and the associated access and benefit rights should be priority issues. Clear tenure arrangements should provide tenure security and property rights, as well as an institutional mechanism for effective enforcement. Experience has shown that community forestry models of forest management are successful in countries where clarity and security of tenure are guaranteed by States. It is becoming even more important now, in the context of the REDD+ mechanism emerging from the climate change negotiations, to underscore the need to reform tenure rights and arrangements so as to attend to the interests of local communities

and indigenous people in ensuring the flow of benefits from that and other emerging mechanisms.

18. Rights to access and benefit-sharing for local people is a fundamental requirement for the achievement of sustainable forest management and the reduction of rural poverty in forested areas. There is a need to reconcile traditional forest-related knowledge, intellectual property rights and the equitable sharing of benefits between indigenous and local communities and external agents operating in forests. This matter has come increasingly to the forefront in recent years as a result of the experience gained in developing and implementing the REDD+ mechanism.

19. In addition, better information, scientific knowledge and modern management techniques are critical for ensuring sustainable forest management and the downstream processing and marketing of forest and non-wood forest products. The interface between science and policy needs to be strengthened at the local, national and international levels, utilizing modern technologies, including information technologies.

20. A holistic approach to forests that takes into account the economic, social and environmental values, as well as the cultural and spiritual dimensions, of forests for all people is essential, including in developing policies such as REDD+. Much more frequent and effective cross-sectoral and cross-institutional integration is needed in this regard.

21. If stakeholders have adequate information about forest resources and policies, they can practise sustainable forest management by ensuring that harvesting levels are appropriate, thereby showing appreciation for the true social and economic value of forests. Such an approach will require the identification of knowledge gaps and the provision of support for further capacity-building in local communities.

D. Community-based forest management

22. Community-based forest management is a growing phenomenon in many parts of the world. After three decades, the management system stands at a crossroads. The basic tenet of the system is the centrality of people and the value of collective responsibilities and actions, in particular for those who live in and around forest areas and whose livelihoods are directly affected by the existence (or loss) of forests. The system devolves the authority and responsibility from the State to community groups to take control of and manage certain tracts of forest land. Depending on the social, political, institutional and biophysical conditions of a country, community forestry programmes take many different forms. Experience has shown that community-based forest management has great potential to contribute to sustainable forest management, biodiversity conservation, improvements in livelihoods, the strengthening of grass-roots democracy and people's organization, and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

23. Community forests have not only helped to rehabilitate barren hill slopes, enhance standing degraded forest land and increase the supply of forest products to local communities, but also raised awareness for civic activism, such as building associations and mobilizing for social justice and rights and competency for collective actions. In many developing countries, the villagers who have been involved in community forest programmes are also more active in other social and

political movements. That is an unintended development that clearly has positive empowering effects for vulnerable and previously voiceless segments of societies, including women and the poor.

24. Community forestry management models have resulted in many social changes, including the sustained supply of basic forest products to community members and the creation of free time enabling young children to attend school. They have also created opportunities for wood and non-wood processing and marketing and further income generation. In post-conflict countries, including Liberia, the opportunities afforded by community-based forest enterprises can be considerable, both economically and in terms of social reintegration. However, it should be noted that community forestry has its limits; it would be wrong to assume that community forests are necessarily a better solution, or the only solution, permitting the sustainable management of forests for various purposes or that community forests have no problems of their own. It is best to regard community-based forest management as one among the range of forest management models, which should be chosen on the basis of ecological, socio-economic and political conditions. Elinor Ostrom, the 2009 winner of the Nobel Prize for economics for her work on common property and collective action, has said, "We find Government forests that work and community forests that work and those that don't. Panaceas, like thinking 'community forests are always great', are dangerous."[3] However, with the appropriate institutional framework backed by financial, technical and legal support, community-based forest management can, in many instances, have desirable results for people and forests.

25. Community-based forest management should also be considered in the context of a broader landscape that covers other land uses such as farming, grazing land for livestock, infrastructure and watersheds. As the majority of such forest management practices are carried out in rural areas, economic decisions made by communities and households within communities depend on farm and non-farm incomes, forest-based income and incomes from other sources or sectors. Given that more than 1 billion hectares of degraded areas throughout the world are suitable for forest landscape restoration, community-based forest management could be woven into other existing rural economic activities. Other landscape-based approaches (on non-degraded land in production and conservation forests) are also important.

E. Emerging issues

26. There is a renewed recognition of the role played by forests in ensuring a sustainable water supply and in the transition of society towards green economies. Wood energy, green infrastructure and buildings, and forests as carbon sinks represent opportunities for the forest sector. In a life cycle analysis of building materials, wood has a strong advantage when compared with other building materials, and therefore has the potential to gain market share and usage in any future green buildings (for detailed discussion on green economy, see E/CN.18/2011/8).

27. Adequate financing for all aspects of sustainable forest management is a critical issue under deliberation in the international forest policy process. While

[3] *The Economist*, 25 September 2010.

REDD+ financing represents an emerging opportunity for mobilizing new financial resources for forests, the scope of such financing is unlikely to address all aspects of sustainable forest management. In this regard, it should be emphasized that the special session of the ninth session of the Forum on Forests, held in October 2009, set in motion a process to find a concrete solution on forest financing that would be comprehensive and cover financing challenges for all aspects of forests in all geographic regions and for all forest types. In this context, the experience gained from the programmes and processes, related to REDD+, such as the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries, the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, the Forest Investment Programme, the Global Environment Facility and several bilateral and regional initiatives, will provide valuable input for the Forum's work on forest financing, including for the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing.

III. Recommendations for consideration by the United Nations Forum on Forests

28. **The Forum may wish to consider encouraging Member States to:**

(a) **Incorporate more participatory models of decision-making processes related to forests, in particular with respect to the involvement of local communities and indigenous people and their knowledge, with a specific focus on incorporating women into the process;**

(b) **Support the development or strengthening of local decision-making mechanisms for forest management, including the participation of women so as to better represent their interests;**

(c) **Take action to explore, develop and improve an enabling environment, tenure security, fair access and benefit-sharing and long-term incentives to further attract investment in forests;**

(d) **Continue and intensify the devolution of tenure rights by reforming national legislation and regulations to enable the transfer of forest tenure to local and indigenous communities, depending upon their levels of dependence on forests;**

(e) **Provide financial and technical assistance to develop the capacity of local and indigenous communities in negotiating and recording forest tenure, access and benefits arrangements;**

(f) **Share experiences and provide examples on the sharing of revenues and/or other benefits from forests granted as commercial timber concessions with communities whose livelihoods directly depend on such forests;**

(g) **Seek to develop a forest landscape restoration approach to degraded areas of land which require a more strategic identification of appropriate forest, agricultural, wetland, protected areas and other land management areas, and include close cooperation with communities in so doing;**

(h) **Encourage the establishment of safeguards and guidelines to ensure that the benefits derived from forests are equitably distributed to local and**

indigenous communities, in particular in the context of emerging mechanisms such as REDD+;

(i) Develop and supply alternative energy sources to rural areas and improve the productivity of agricultural land to reduce pressures on natural forests, including those arising from agricultural biomass;

(j) Develop policies that integrate the role of sustainable forest management in the sustainable supply of clean water for rural and urban populations and for agricultural purposes;

(k) Raise awareness of the value and importance of the sustainable production of multiple forest goods and services, including through information campaigns targeted at communities, as well as of the forest's contribution in terms of social, economic and environment benefits and, to this end, include forest education in the curricula of primary and secondary schools, making use of various media and the International Year of Forests, 2011;

(l) Promote local entrepreneurship, community-company partnerships and small and medium-sized forest-based enterprises and related investment in sustainable forest management.

29. **The Forum should consider inviting the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to:**

(a) Assess, in collaboration with countries and major groups, the status of existing data banks and information on forest conditions and forest tenure, including information on forest biodiversity, carbon, and livelihoods in different types of forest areas, and work towards establishing and regularly updating a digital global data-sharing mechanism which could be easily accessed by Government agencies, forest managers, researchers, civil society groups and other forest stakeholders;

(b) Assist countries in developing policies, strategies and data-gathering systems which connect sustainable forest management with sustainable and resilient local livelihoods, with due emphasis on forest governance, tenure security and public participation;

(c) Assist Member States in developing practical and simplified methodologies to understand the full range of forest values and in capturing such values to protect vulnerable ecosystems or to generate revenue flows from sustainable sources;

(d) Assist countries and community groups in improving their communication, moderation, facilitation and conflict-management skills and in strengthening collaboration with other sectors;

(e) Assist Member States in improving the capacity of communities to produce goods and services in a sustainable manner through such means as community-based training, education networks and associations comprising representatives of relevant stakeholder groups;

(f) Assist Member States in integrating the forest instrument and national forest programmes and similar strategies into national development strategies and national forest financing strategies, as well as in tying these

mechanisms to other sectoral coordination mechanisms, including in the area of agriculture and poverty reduction strategies;

(g) Promote a forest landscape restoration strategy as a joint initiative with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, building on the work of the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration and as a means of deciding on the best ecosystem choices available as well as to restore the appropriate balance between human beings and nature in forest landscapes.

30. The Forum may wish to consider inviting donors, international organizations and civil society to:

(a) Work together to identify the key elements in an enabling environment for sustainable forest management and assist countries in creating such an environment in order to attract investment in sustainable forest management;

(b) Increase funding for people-focused actions in sustainable forest management, specifically in integrated rural development programmes, in particular community-oriented forest governance, management and benefits;

(c) Provide financial resources, assist in capacity development and promote technology transfer to developing countries and countries in transition in order to support their efforts in improving community-based forest management and social development.

31. The Forum may wish to consider calling upon the private sector and civil society organizations to actively participate and contribute to people-oriented forest development programmes.

32. The Forum may wish to consider requesting the Forum secretariat:

(a) To further gather and analyse, in cooperation with members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, relevant information on the contribution of forests to sustainable livelihoods, income generation and economic development, and to submit it to the Forum at its tenth session within the context of the overall theme of the tenth session, "Forests and economic development". In this regard, a country-, organization- or major group-led intersessional initiative in support of the Forum on this subject would be welcome;

(b) To consider intersessional activities on forest valuation methodologies to reflect the full value of contributions from forests to national accounting systems and national development in order to enrich the discussion of the overall theme of the tenth session of the Forum in 2013;

(c) In cooperation with members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, to recognize the fundamental and critical relationship between forests and water, and to develop, with the support of donors, analyses of the key aspects of that relationship for consideration at the tenth session of the Forum as a critical aspect of economic development and as a significant emerging issue.

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Preparations for the International Year of Forests, 2011 (Forests 2011)

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The report on preparations for the International Year of Forests, 2011 (Forests 2011) has been prepared to provide an overview on the state of preparations for Forests 2011. The report provides information on initiatives and activities being organized by Governments, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and international, regional and subregional organizations, as well as major groups, to celebrate Forests 2011. The concluding section offers recommendations on the next steps. The annexes to the report include the International Year of Forests, 2011 logo as well as the logo use guidelines and waiver of liability form.

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I. Introduction

1. On 20 December 2006, the General Assembly, in its resolution 61/193, declared 2011 the International Year of Forests and invited Governments, the United Nations system, relevant non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other actors to make concerted efforts to raise awareness at all levels to strengthen the sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests for the benefit of current and future generations.

2. In resolution 61/193, the General Assembly also requested the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to serve as the focal point for the implementation of the Year, in collaboration with Governments, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and international, regional and subregional organizations and processes as well as relevant major groups. It also encouraged voluntary partnerships among Member States, international organizations and major groups to facilitate and promote activities related to the Year at the local and national levels, including by creating national committees or designating focal points in their respective countries.

3. The present report provides information on the preparations at the national, regional and international levels for the observance of the Year, taking into account input received in response to notes verbales dated 10 July 2009 and 9 April 2010. A number of Member States and organizations have indicated their intention to promote activities to celebrate the International Year of Forests, 2011; however, at the time of drafting of the report, specific details for some of those activities were still under development.

II. Key communication activities

4. The International Year of Forests, 2011 offers a unique opportunity to raise public awareness of the significant contributions of forests around the world, but also to highlight the challenges facing many of the world's forests and the people who depend on them. Great success stories and valuable lessons on how to promote sustainable forest management already exist. The Year provides a means of bringing those voices together and building momentum towards greater public participation in forest activities around the world.

5. To help facilitate achievement of the objectives of the Year, the Director of the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests is working with an advisory committee of media leaders who are supporting the development and implementation of the communication strategy for the Year. The secretariat has been reaching out to organizations in film, television and media industries, nature museums and other institutions that have an interest in forests. As part of the branding strategy, the International Year of Forests, 2011 is being referred to as "Forests 2011" as a way of easily promoting the Year. A well-known and successful non-governmental organization, the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival, has taken on the pro bono role of promoting the Festival and helping with the process of identifying the winning films. Through the Forests 2011 multi-level communication strategy, numerous outreach activities have been initiated.

6. **Global launch of the Year**. The global launch ceremony of Forests 2011 will take place at United Nations Headquarters during the high-level segment of the

ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (2 and 3 February 2011), in which Heads of State and Ministers will participate. The programme will include high-level round-table discussions, media activities, film screenings, the unveiling of the United Nations commemorative stamp series for the International Year, and other public events. In the note verbale of 9 April 2010, Member States from all regional groups were invited to participate at the ministerial level in the global launch events at the ninth session of the Forum. Member States were also invited to use these events as an opportunity to announce national actions in celebrating Forests 2011.

7. **Forests 2011 logo**. The official logo for the International Year was developed in collaboration with the Graphics Design Unit of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat. The logo received approval by the United Nations Publications Board on 9 July 2010 and was launched in all official United Nations languages on 19 July 2010. At the time of drafting the present report, the secretariat had received over 120 logo requests from Member States, international organizations and major groups. Annex I to the report contains the logo in all official United Nations languages, annex II sets forth the logo use guidelines, and annex III contains the waiver of liability form.

(a) The Forests 2011 logo is designed to convey the theme of "Forests for People" celebrating the central role of people in the sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of our world's forests. The iconographic elements in the design depict some of the multiple values of forests and the need for a 360-degree perspective: forests provide shelter to people and habitat to biodiversity; are a source of food, medicine and clean water; and play a vital role in maintaining a stable global climate and environment. All of these elements taken together reinforce the message that forests are vital to the survival and well-being of people everywhere, all 7 billion of us;

(b) The Forests 2011 logo is available in the six official United Nations languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. In addition, to date, the logo has also been translated into the following local languages: Armenian, Bulgarian, Catalan, Croatian, Czech, Dutch, Finnish, German, Greek, Icelandic, Japanese, Kyrgyz, Latvian, Polish, Portuguese, Slovenian, Swedish, the Swiss national languages and Turkish. Member States are encouraged to translate the text "International Year of Forests, 2011" into local languages and send the translated text only in EPS (graphic) file format to the secretariat of the Forum so that the logo can be made available in additional local languages in a PDF document.

8. **Forests 2011 website.** The website (www.un.org/forests) was launched on 4 October 2010 in collaboration with the Web Services Section of the Department of Public Information. The site provides an online platform for all information materials related to the celebration of the Year. This multimedia site will serve an international platform with information from worldwide actions in celebration of Forests 2011. The site currently features a slide show, information on the International Forest Film Festival and Member States' plans for celebrating the Year. In addition, the website includes a calendar of national, regional and international initiatives related to the Year and will provide electronic versions of all Forests 2011 promotional materials, including photographs, videos, audio and PowerPoint presentations as they become available. The website will soon include a portal geared towards the media, which will feature links to forest news items and a press

kit with fact sheets, brochures and other informational documents related to critical forest issues. It will also function as a gateway to all Forests 2011 websites of Member States.

9. **Forests 2011 Film Festival**. The secretariat of the Forum is working with the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival to organize the International Forest Film Festival in celebration of Forests 2011. Winning films will be presented to delegates at the launch of Forests 2011 at United Nations Headquarters in February 2011. The overall theme of the Festival is "Forests for People", with subcategories, including: "360 Degrees on All Things Forest", for the film that best communicates humanity's social, cultural, economic or spiritual interconnectivity to forests; "Living Forests", for the film that most effectively showcases the rich diversity and complexity of forest ecosystems; "Issues & Solutions", for the film that most effectively communicates solutions to environmental and sustainability issues facing forests and the people relying on it; "Forest Hero", for the best film celebrating the work of individuals or groups committed to forest research and sustainability; "This is My Forest", for the film that most effectively tells a personal story of a forest, and; "Shorts", awarded to the best film under 15 minutes in length. The Forum secretariat will also promote film screenings at United Nations facilities, as well as at other film festivals and events around the world. The website of the Film Festival has been launched (www.ForestFilmFestival.org) and the call for submissions was widely distributed to focal points from Member States, international organizations and major groups.

10. **Forest Heroes awards**. This programme will be launched to identify and honour the efforts of "everyday" people who tirelessly work in nurturing, protecting and managing our forests around the world. These stories of unsung heroes will be showcased on the Forests 2011 website throughout the year as a way of inspiring others to action. The award winners will be honoured at the Forests 2011 closing ceremony. As part of the long-term strategic plan for promoting the Forests 2011 "Forests for People" theme, the secretariat of the Forum hopes to continue the Forest Heroes programme beyond 2011 and build a global network of Forest Heroes to share their experiences and expertise, and continue to inspire others.

11. **Forest spokespersons or messengers**. The secretariat of the Forum is currently identifying individuals who can use their leadership or celebrity status to generate media attention and help to raise awareness and support for forests. These ambassadors-at-large are being sought from around the world and would be invited to travel to public events to promote Forests 2011 and mobilize action for forests.

12. **Public service announcements and short promotional films**. The secretariat of the Forum plans to produce 3- to 5-minute films and public service announcements for distribution worldwide in different languages for use on television and other media distribution channels, including pro bono shows in theatres to convey inspiring messages of action for forests.

13. **Art, film and photo competitions**. The secretariat of the Forum plans to organize virtual (online) events to recognize individuals who use art, photography, film and short videos to communicate their views and celebrate forests for people. The secretariat is currently working with museums, environmental filmmakers, media representatives and the forest networks to develop a major worldwide competition to attract art, film and photographs that capture the "Forests for People" theme of Forests 2011.

14. **Forests 2011 United Nations stamp series**. The United Nations Postal Administration is developing a United Nations commemorative stamp series for the International Year in collaboration with the secretariat of the Forum. The stamp series is expected to be unveiled during the global launch of Forests 2011 at United Nations Headquarters. The stamp series will also be issued at the United Nations Offices at Geneva and Vienna.

15. **Exhibits and banners**. Using the stories, art and photos collected as part of the Forests 2011 activities, the secretariat of the Forum plans to create exhibits and banner displays that would feature vignettes of people's actions for sustainable forest management around the world and embody the theme of "Forests in Your Everyday Life".

16. **General Assembly event**. In paragraph 8 (h) of the report of the Secretary-General (A/65/229), a recommendation was presented for consideration which called for the convening of a special one-day high-level event of the General Assembly sixty-sixth session in September 2011, with the participation of Heads of State and Government, to generate public awareness and political action towards sustainable forest management.

III. Activities of Governments

17. While the Year will be a global event, the majority of activities to celebrate the International Year will take place at the national level. National committees and Forests 2011 focal points have the responsibility for coordinating and publicizing country-level celebrations and communicating these plans and results to the secretariat of the Forum. The secretariat has been notified of the following meetings, conferences and ceremonies to celebrate Forests 2011:

(a) Brazil plans to organize an International Congress on Cities and Forests in Manaus, Amazonas, in 2011;

(b) Bulgaria plans to celebrate the traditional professional holiday of foresters in April 2011;

(c) China will hold special tree-plantings to commemorate the International Year as part of the China Tree-Planting Day on 12 March 2011. In addition a wrap-up conference and award ceremony is scheduled in December 2011 for the thirtieth anniversary of the China National Compulsory Tree-Planting Campaign, featuring presentations from high-ranking Government officials from the State Council and attended by diplomats, national organizations and non-governmental organizations;

(d) The Czech Republic will celebrate Forest Days in 2011;

(e) Cyprus is organizing a meeting on "COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) Action FP0701, Post-Fire Forest Management in Southern Europe" in 2011 and a conference on the holistic management of forest ecosystems in Cyprus;

(f) El Salvador plans to hold a forestry fair in 2011 with a focus on development;

(g) Ethiopia is planning an International Year of Forests launch event with the participation of government and non-governmental stakeholders, including research and higher education institutions;

(h) The European Union Forest Directors-General meeting is expected to be held in Poland in November 2011;

(i) The European State Forest Association (EUSTAFOR) plans to organize its twelfth meeting in 2011;

(j) Fiji has launched a "One Million Tree-Planting Campaign" for the period April 2010 to April 2011. The campaign initiated by the Ministry of Forestry is being supported by all government and non-governmental sectors, including international and regional organizations based in Fiji;

(k) Germany's Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection plans to launch a national awareness campaign to create publicity and awareness for Forests 2011 and forest-related issues during the International Green Week in Berlin (21-30 January 2011);

(l) Guatemala plans to organize its ninth National Forestry Congress in 2011;

(m) Japan is organizing a ceremony to bridge the closing of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity to the 2011 International Year of Forests. The ceremony will be organized as part of the closing event of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity in Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan, in December 2010. Japan also intends to organize an international conference in February or March 2011 which will mark the launch of the International Year of Forests in Japan;

(n) Poland will launch Forests 2011 in Poland in conjunction with a seminar on "Polish Forests and Forestry against the Background of Forests in Europe and the World", with the participation of experts from the scientific community and a media press conference. In addition, other 2011 events include a Forest Day in Warsaw, mushroom picking in the forest district of Wyszków, and blueberry picking in the forest district of Celestynów;

(o) The Republic of Korea will host a commemorative ceremony for the International Year of Forests which will feature forestry achievement awards, the unveiling of a merit tower in commemoration of the Year, and relevant campaigns. The Republic of Korea will also organize an international symposium on forest roles, and policies of climate change and forestry as well as workshops, seminars, conferences and panel discussions to highlight the multiple roles of forests for society.

18. In addition to the events listed above, a number of Member States and organizations have indicated their intent to hold other communication and outreach activities including:

(a) Competitions: ranging from photo, art, slogan, and essay-writing competitions to sports and athletic competitions in forests. Bulgaria, China, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Georgia, Israel, Jamaica, Lebanon, Poland and the Republic of Korea have indicated their plans to organize competitions as part of their Forests 2011 activities;

(b) Exhibitions: to draw attention to critical forest issues, ranging from deforestation and forest degradation to the protective functions of forests, are planned, using photography and other visual media to communicate the messages. Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Georgia, Jamaica, Poland and Romania have indicated their plans to organize exhibitions as part of their Forests 2011 activities;

(c) Tree planting: including the distribution of seedlings, and providing post planting information and guidelines are planned as awareness-raising activities to highlight the important role of afforestation and restoration in sustainable forest management activities. Austria, China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ethiopia, Georgia, Israel, Jamaica, Lebanon, Poland and the United States of America have indicated their plans to organize tree plantings as part of their Forests 2011 activities. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has specifically indicated plans to plant over 1 billion trees throughout the country during 2011;

(d) Field trips: to forest-protected areas. National parks can play an important role in raising awareness of the general public, youth, journalists and politicians of the importance of forest resources and the factors that threaten national forests. Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Lebanon and Romania have indicated their plans to organize field trips as part of their Forests 2011 activities;

(e) Publications: informational materials, including books, brochures, calendars, educational materials, leaflets, pamphlets and posters, are a tried and tested means of communication and outreach. Austria, China, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Georgia, Jamaica, Morocco, Poland and Romania have indicated their plans to produce publications as part of their Forests 2011 activities;

(f) Other awareness-raising activities: Austria, Croatia, Lebanon and Portugal have indicated their plans to organize activities to promote awareness of the role of forests and to foster exchange of practical strategies for promoting sustainable forest management as part of their Forests 2011 activities.

IV. Activities of international organizations

19. International organizations, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and the United Nations system, including the functional commissions and the regional commissions, as well as United Nations system agencies, funds and programmes will play a critical role in supporting and organizing Forests 2011 activities at the global and regional levels.

(a) Centre for International Forestry Research: The secretariat of the Forum is working in close collaboration with the Centre to build upon the experience of Forest Days at the Conferences of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as a model for creating a knowledge-sharing network for Forests 2011. This model employs the use of multiple communication channels, including social networks, environmental journalists' blogs, and other means of direct information flow to target audiences. Forest Day 4, during the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (5 December 2010), will serve as a key bridge event between the International Year of Biodiversity and the

International Year of Forests. As part of the filming of Forest Day 4, participants will be asked to share their messages for the International Year of Forests, 2011. In celebration of the Year, the Centre in 2011 will also be hosting six conferences around the world entitled "Forests 2011: A call for Science";

(b) Convention on Biological Diversity: The secretariat of the Forum is working in close collaboration with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to build on the successes of the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010, and to carry the momentum forward into Forests 2011. Activities include: the organization of a "bridging event" as part of the closing ceremony of the International Year of Biodiversity in December 2010 in Kanazawa, Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan; the forest biodiversity focus of the upcoming International Day for Biological Diversity on 22 May 2011; the development of informational materials on forest biodiversity; and the possible inclusion of a forests focus in the Convention on Biological Diversity Ecosystems Pavilion events in 2011;

(c) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO): The secretariat of the Forum is working in close collaboration with FAO on a range of activities for Forests 2011. FAO, as the Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, is supporting implementation of the Year, and convened the first meeting of the Partnership forest communicators' focal points in the sidelines of the twentieth session of the Committee on Forestry, on 5 October 2010 . The Partnership forest communicators' network is expected to explore common communication approaches and measures to support forest-related communication in Partnership member organizations during the International Year and beyond. In addition, FAO activities during Forests 2011 include the launch of *State of the World Forests* in 2011 at the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, the publication of fact sheets on forests data and opportunities for Forests 2011 events at FAO Headquarters, in cooperation with the city of Rome as well as at the regional level in coordination with FAO regional commissions;

(d) International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD): IFAD has indicated that it plans to co-organize a side event on carbon forestry during the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Cancun, Mexico, in 2010;

(e) International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN): The secretariat of the Forum is working in close collaboration with IUCN to promote awareness of the values of large-scale forest landscape restoration throughout Forests 2011, including in particular through the work being undertaken through the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration. Other activities planned include leveraging the IUCN extensive network of members, and publications such as *Arborvitae* and *World Conservation* to raise awareness and share positive stories for Forests 2011;

(f) International Tropical Timber Organization: The secretariat of the Forum is working in close collaboration with the International Tropical Timber Organization on a number of Forests 2011 activities. Planned events include: the December 2010 Ishikawa event marking the closing of the International Year of Biodiversity, and transition to Forests 2011; a special issue of the publication *Tropical Forest Update*; the sharing of the organization's success stories on successful field projects; the launch of a 2010 report on sustainable forest

management in the tropics and the publication of educational materials highlighting the importance of tropical forests;

(g) International Union of Forest Research Organizations: During 2011, over 70 Union-related meetings are taking place; the secretariat of the Forum plans to work in collaboration with the Union to disseminate Forests 2011 information materials through these events. The Union-led Collaborative Partnership on Forests initiative, Global Forest Expert Panels, will contribute to Forests 2011 through the publication of an assessment report which aims to raise awareness on the role of international instruments and institutions affecting forests. Other communication opportunities for Forests 2011 include particular Global Forest Information Service (www.gfis.net) and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations newsletter;

(h) Global Environmental Facility (GEF): GEF plans to closely link the celebration of its twentieth anniversary in 2011 with the Forests 2011 events and will use this opportunity to promote its new sustainable forest management and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation-Plus programme, for which a separate funding envelope of $250 million has been created in the fifth repienishment of GEF, providing incentives for better management of all types of forests in GEF-eligible countries;

(i) Ramsar Convention on Wetlands: The Convention selected "Forests for water and wetlands" as the slogan for World Wetlands Day, 2011 in recognition of the International Year of Forests. The secretariat of the Forum worked in collaboration with the Ramsar Convention secretariat on the production of a World Wetlands Day, 2011 brochure on wetlands and forests. The publication looks at forested wetlands and highlights the many useful roles these ecosystems play for people and wildlife. The brochure also examines the vital role of forests in the global water cycle, including how forests provide clean water to wetlands and combat the effects of climate change;

(j) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO): UNESCO will be playing a key role in a regional conference on forests, to be held in Kinshasa, being organized by the Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Tourism of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which will raise awareness about the International Year of Forests. The conference is expected to be held in late November/early December 2010. UNESCO will be involved in the conference through the Regional Post-graduate Training School on Integrated Management of Tropical Forests and Lands;

(k) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP): The secretariat of the Forum is working in close collaboration with UNEP on a number of Forests 2011 communication initiatives. The programme's planned activities for forest-related communications in 2011 included audio-visual and media packages. In addition, the UNEP 2011 Sasakawa award has the theme "Forest for people, Forests for green growth", in support of Forests 2011, and discussions are under way to highlight forest themes in the 2011 World Environment Day on 5 June, to raise awareness of the role of forests in the green economy;

(l) World Agroforestry Centre: The secretariat of the Forum plans to work in close collaboration with the Centre in promoting success stories related to forests and agroforestry. The Centre plans to showcase stories on the advantages of

agroforestry in the context of forests throughout 2011, including by highlighting gender and livelihood aspects through various communication channels such as publications and exhibitions.

V. Activities of regional and subregional organizations

20. Regional and subregional forest-related organizations play a critical role in cooperation and the implementation of sustainable forest management, and thus will play a critical role in supporting and organizing Forests 2011 activities at the regional and subregional levels.

21. The secretariat of the Forum has been notified of the following regional and subregional activities to celebrate Forests 2011:

(a) The Central African Forests Commission plans to build on the experiences of the celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010 and provide support to member States of the Commission for the celebration of Forests 2011, including through education and information activities;

(b) The Communauté des Etats Sahélo-Sahariens is planning meetings in 2011 on combating desertification and safeguarding forest resources, including the first meeting of the steering committee of the Great Green Wall Initiative;

(c) The twenty-fourth session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission and second Asia-Pacific Forest Week will be held in China in 2011;

(d) The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) plans to convene in 2011 the second Ministerial Meeting on Forests of ASEAN and China as well as a meeting of senior forest officials of ASEAN and China on regional policy dialogue;

(e) The Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation plans to organize a forestry summer camp and exchange visits among forestry colleges and institutions in 2011, as follow-up to the Meeting of Forestry College Deans held in July 2010. The Network also plans to publicize Forests 2011 activities in the region through the Network's website and newsletters;

(f) The tenth Pacific heads of forestry meeting will be held in Fiji in May and June 2011, to review past and present implementation of forestry activities in the Pacific. To commemorate Forests 2011, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community will launch a book entitled *Forestry in the Pacific* during the regional meeting of the heads of forestry in Fiji. During 2011, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community also plans to organize various communication activities to essay-writing competitions, merit awards, press releases, audio-visuals and documentaries to enhance awareness on the value of the forest resource to the well-being of the people of the Pacific;

(g) The sixth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe will be convened in Oslo from 14 to 16 June 2011. The Conference will take a decision on a legally binding agreement on forests in the pan-European region, and decide upon a common vision, goals and targets for forests in Europe. The ministerial conference will be Europe's major contribution in the International Year of Forests, and the FOREST EUROPE secretariat Liaison Unit in Oslo plans to engage ministers responsible for forests to champion at all levels the issues of the International Year of Forests;

(h) The third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention will be held in Slovakia in 2011. The meeting is expected to adopt a draft protocol on sustainable forest management;

(i) The FOREST EUROPE Liaison Unit in Oslo is working in collaboration with the secretariat of the Forum and the Forest Communicators' Network on 2011 activities to promote knowledge of Europe's work for sustainable forest management among policy and decision makers, the media and public, and to create dialogue and engage action. In addition, the FOREST EUROPE Liaison Unit in Oslo, in cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)/FAO Forestry and Timber Section and FAO, will publish the *State of Europe's Forests 2011* report, which will provide information on the status and changes of Europe's forests, their management and applied policies;

(j) The UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section is developing a forest communication strategy to communicate messages on the state of forests in Europe, as part of its Forests 2011 activities. This strategy is being developed in cooperation with the Forest Communicators' Network, a network of communication experts from countries and organizations throughout the region. Activities planned for the International Year include the launch of a video, and meetings and workshops on climate change-related aspects and the various dimensions of sustainable forest management. As part of these activities, the fourth meeting of the Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management will be held in January 2011, in Turkey;

(k) The International Model Forest Network secretariat, the Spanish Ministry of the Environment and the Regional Government of the region of Castilla y León (Spain) will mark Forests 2011 through the organization of an international symposium on ecosystem and landscape-level approaches to sustainability, in Burgos, Spain. The meeting will serve to strengthen understanding of forest ecosystem management and provide an opportunity to celebrate the significant successes that natural resource managers and communities around the world are achieving. The Symposium will precede the Global Forum of the International Model Forest Network, which is also being held in Burgos, Spain;

(l) During 2011, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization expects to begin full implementation of the new Regional Agenda for Amazonian Cooperation, which includes the following instruments: the Regional Agenda for Cooperation regarding Forests; the Regional Agenda for Cooperation on Indigenous Affairs; and the Regional Action Plan for Amazonian Biodiversity in 2011.

VI. Activities of major groups

22. Major groups as identified in Agenda 21 have been recognized as key stakeholders in the implementation of sustainable forest management around the world. In July 2010, during the major groups-led initiative entitled "Applying sustainable forest management to poverty reduction: strengthening the multi-stakeholder approach within the United Nations Forum on Forests", held in Accra,

various forest-related major groups shared their plans[1] for celebrating the International Year of Forests. These included:

(a) Communication products: informational and educational materials, newsletters, posters and student videos;

(b) Events: national launch events, community events, tree planting, seminars/workshops/conferences, concerts, parades, art and music contests and national television programmes on forest issues.

23. In addition to those activities, the secretariat of the Forum has been receiving a growing number of partnership requests from the private sector. Companies from around the world have requested permission to use the Forests 2011 logo and have offered to support Forests 2011 events. Demonstrating the cross-sector appeal of the International Year, the majority of requests have not come from the forestry industry. In fact, all types of companies, including those from the manufacturing, food, and technology sectors, have been requesting to use the Forests 2011 logo as they look to showcase their commitment to sustainable business practices and promote awareness of these practices throughout the International Year.

VII. Recommendations

24. **Recognizing the need to promote sustainable management of all types of forests at all levels, the United Nations Forum on Forests may wish to consider the following recommendations:**

(a) **Further encourage Member States to promote awareness of challenges and success stories related to implementing sustainable forest management at the national level, including as a means of promoting North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation;**

(b) **Renew its invitation to Member States to establish national coordinating committees or designate focal points to promote and coordinate activities and initiatives related to the International Year of Forests, 2011 at the local and national levels;**

(c) **Further encourage Governments, relevant regional and international organizations and major groups to support activities related to the Year, inter alia, through voluntary contributions, and to link their relevant activities to the Year;**

(d) **Encourage all relevant organs of the United Nations, including the functional commissions and the regional commissions, as well as United Nations system agencies, funds and programmes, to fully support, contribute to and participate in the activities envisaged for the observance of 2011 as the International Year of Forests;**

(e) **Further encourage the creation of voluntary partnerships among Member States, international organizations and major groups organizations to**

[1] Applying sustainable forest management to poverty reduction: strengthening the multi-stakeholder approach within the United Nations Forum on Forests summary report of the Major Groups-Led Initiative in Support of the United Nations Forum on Forests, 26-30 July 2010, Accra.

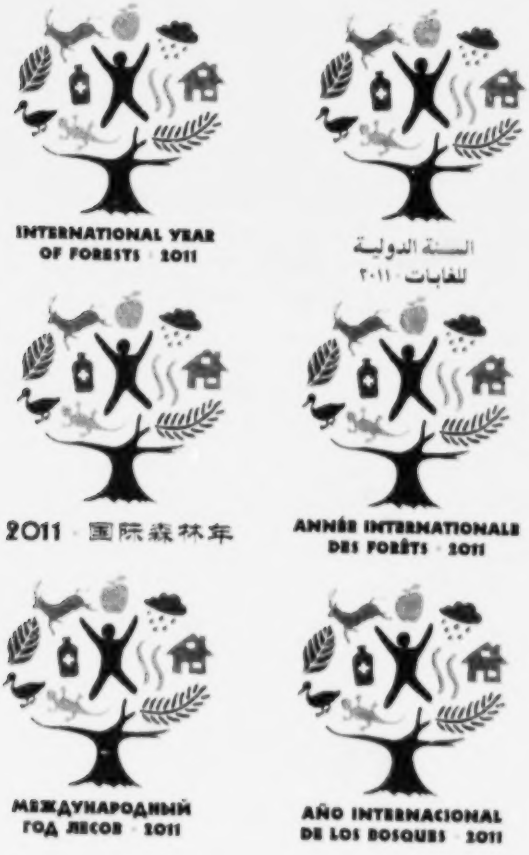
facilitate and promote activities related to the Year at the local and national levels;

(f) Invite the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to continue the Communication Network in future in order to promote a sound understanding by people, Member States and international organizations of the many contributions of forests and the need to manage them sustainably;

(g) Promote observance of the Year not as an isolated event but as part of a continuing process of advocacy and partnership to foster greater awareness and action towards sustainable forest management at all levels, in effect a forest-plus strategy for the years 2012 and onward.

Annex I

International Year of Forests, 2011 logo in all official United Nations languages


INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FORESTS · 2011
السنة الدولية للغابات · ٢٠١١
2011 · 国际森林年
ANNÉE INTERNATIONALE DES FORÊTS · 2011
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ ГОД ЛЕСОВ · 2011
AÑO INTERNACIONAL DE LOS BOSQUES · 2011

Annex II

International Year of Forests, 2011 logo use guidelines

Logo use guidelines

I. Design of the logo

1. The International Year of Forests, 2011 (Forests 2011) logo is designed to convey the theme of "Forests for People", celebrating the central role of people in the sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of our world's forests. The iconographic elements in the design depict some of the multiple values of forests and the need for a 360-degree perspective: forests provide shelter to people and habitat to biodiversity; are a source of food, medicine and clean water; and play a vital role in maintaining a stable global climate and environment. All of these elements taken together reinforce the message that forests are vital to the survival and well-being of people everywhere, all 7 billion of us.

II. Translation of the logo

2. The International Year of Forests, 2011 (Forests 2011) logo will be available in the six official United Nations languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

3. Member States are encouraged to translate the text "International Year of Forests, 2011" into local languages and send the translated text only in EPS (graphic) file format via e-mail to the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat at forests@un.org.

4. United Nations entities and other organizations using the logo during events or activities organized for the International Year of Forests may use the Forests 2011 logo in conjunction with their organizational logo.

III. Uses of the logo

A. Use of the logo by entities of the United Nations system

5. Entities of the United Nations system may use the International Year of Forests logo without obtaining prior approval from the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat. However, for reporting purposes, the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat should be informed of events and informational materials for which the logo is used. The logo may also be used for publications that the United Nations may produce with or without external partners in connection with Forests 2011, including, inter alia, posters, brochures, books, videos, flash and PowerPoint presentations, banners, illustrations and animations.

B. Use of the logo by non-United Nations entities

6. The International Year of Forests logo is primarily intended for three kinds of promotional use: information, fund-raising and use by a commercial entity. Parties outside the United Nations system may use the logo after obtaining approval from the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat in accordance with the requirements outlined below:

1. Information uses of the logo

7. Information uses of the logo are those which are:

(a) Primarily illustrative;

(b) Not intended to raise funds;

(c) Not carried out by a commercial entity.

8. All entities interested in using the International Year of Forests logo for information purposes must apply to the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat. When requesting approval, the entities should provide:

(a) A short statement of identity (nature of organization and its objectives);

(b) An explanation of how and where the logo will be used;

(c) A waiver of liability (see annex III) must be signed by the entity requesting to use the logo.

2. Fund-raising uses of the logo

9. Fund-raising uses of the logo are those intended to raise resources to cover costs of International Year of Forests activities organized in 2011. Fund-raising uses of the logo may be undertaken only by non-commercial entities. All entities interested in using the International Year of Forests logo for fund-raising purposes must apply for approval to the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat. When requesting permission to use the logo for fund-raising purposes, the entities must provide:

(a) A short statement of identity (membership, objectives, etc.);

(b) An explanation of how and where the logo will be used;

(c) An explanation of how the fund-raising will take place;

(d) A summary budget;

(e) An explanation of how proceeds would be allocated to cover costs of International Year of Forests activities;

(f) A waiver of liability (see annex III) must be signed by the entity requesting to use the logo.

3. Uses of the logo by commercial entities

10. The uses of the logo by commercial entities are all those undertaken by or involving commercial entities, as well as any use intended to lead to commercial or personal profit. All commercial entities interested in using the International Year of

Forests logo must apply for approval to the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat. When requesting permission to use the logo, the commercial entities must provide:

(a) A short statement of identity (nature of company or enterprise);

(b) An explanation of how and where the logo will be used;

(c) The names of countries/territories where the logo will be used;

(d) The nature of products/services that the entity produces/sells in those areas;

(e) How the products relate to the messages of the International Year of Forests;

(f) What profits the entity is expected to make from the use of the logo;

(g) A summary budget, providing expenses and any proposed royalties or contributions the entity is expected to make to local, national or international activities for the preparations for the International Year of Forests in 2011 or in favour of implementation of the activities of the International Year of Forests in 2011.

11. Before the logo is used by a commercial entity, a contract must be signed with the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat. In particular, such contracts must include provisions concerning the waiver of liability (see annex III). Such contracts must also provide the detailed terms and conditions concerning the use of the logo, including the details of the information enumerated above. Additionally, such contracts must contain the United Nations General Conditions of Contract.

4. Length of use of the logo

12. The International Year of Forests logo will be used for a period of two years from July 2010 until June 2012. That period includes the preparation phase in 2010 for the International Year of Forests, the celebrations of the International Year of Forests in 2011, and any subsequent reporting in 2012.

13. The International Year of Forests logo is primarily intended for promotional use, including, inter alia, websites, posters, brochures, books, videos, flash and PowerPoint presentations, banners, illustrations and animations. The logo may be used beyond June 2012 in reference to publications about the International Year of Forests.

IV. Liability

14. All entities authorized to use the International Year of Forests, 2011 logo for the purposes specified herein must agree to the following provisions on waiver of liability:

(a) The entity is responsible for ensuring that the activities are carried out in accordance with the applicable law and for ensuring that the appropriate insurance is maintained to cover the risks arising out of such activities;

(b) The United Nations does not assume any responsibility for the activities of the undersigned;

(c) The entity shall hold harmless and defend the United Nations and its officials against any action that may be brought against the United Nations or its officials as a result of the use of the logo.

15. When the logo is used for information and fund-raising purposes, the waiver of liability form must be signed by the entity. When the logo is used by a commercial entity, the above provisions on waiver of liability must be incorporated into a contract to be signed by the entity. All duly signed waiver of liability forms and contracts must be received by the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat before the proposed activities are carried out.

V. Inquiries

16. Please send inquiries to:

United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat
Attention: International Year of Forests, 2011 Team
Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
1 United Nations Plaza, DC 1 — 1245,
New York, NY 10017, USA

Fax: +1 917 367 3186
E-mail: forests@un.org

Annex III

Waiver of liability for use of the logo of "International Year of Forests, 2011"

The undersigned acknowledges that, in using the logo for the International Year of Forests as explained in its submission dated _____ to the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat:

(a) The undersigned is responsible for ensuring that the activities are carried out in accordance with the applicable law and for ensuring that the appropriate insurance is maintained to cover the risks arising out of such activities;

(b) The United Nations does not assume any responsibility for the activities of the undersigned;

(c) The entity shall hold harmless and defend the United Nations and its officials against any action that may be brought against the United Nations or its officials as a result of the use of the logo.

Signed

_____

Full name (block letters)

_____

Affiliation (block letters)

_____

Name of organization

_____

E-mail

_____

Date

_____

Please send the signed waiver form to:

United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat
Attention: International Year of Forests, 2011 Team
Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
1 United Nations Plaza, DC 1 — 1245,
New York, NY 10017, USA

Fax: +1 917 367 3186
E-mail: forests@un.org

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High-level segment

High-level ministerial segment and policy dialogue with heads of international organizations

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

There are several major issues before the high-level ministerial segment of the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, in particular, the increased importance of forests in various multilateral instruments and processes, the launch of the International Year of Forests (2011), the forest financing process, the upcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and other major forest related themes, challenges and opportunities. The two-day high-level ministerial segment, which is scheduled for 2 and 3 February, represents a unique opportunity for Member States to address these important issues and effectively provide policy advice and direction on these matters.

The present report has been prepared with the aim of facilitating thorough and productive discussions during the high-level segment. It contains a brief note on the outcomes and impacts of previous high-level segments of the Forum and a brief overview of major global development challenges and the role of forests in addressing them, as well as future opportunities with regard to forests. The report concludes by suggesting ways to strengthen and enhance the contribution of forests to the global development agenda and to ongoing and future major global events and processes.

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I. Introduction

1. The United Nations Forum on Forests, in the multi-year programme of work for 2007-2015 adopted at its seventh session, decided to hold a high-level ministerial segment at its ninth and eleventh sessions, in 2011 and 2015, respectively. The high-level ministerial segment of the ninth session is scheduled to be held on 2 and 3 February 2011.

2. The opening of the high-level ministerial segment will feature the official launch of the International Year of Forests (Forests 2011) and a series of special ceremonies and events, with the participation of high-level officials from Member States, the United Nations and other member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, as well as representatives of major groups. After the opening session, the high-level segment will continue its work in various round tables, each discussing a major issue related to forests. There will also be a high-level dialogue among officials and heads of the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests during the second day of the segment. Finally, the high-level ministerial segment is expected to conclude its work with the adoption of a ministerial declaration. It is expected that global media attention will focus on the high-level segment, with particular interest in the launch of Forests 2011.

II. Outcomes of previous high-level ministerial segments

3. Two previous high-level ministerial segments have been held, the first during the second session of the Forum and the second during the fifth session. The first high-level ministerial segment resulted in the adoption of a ministerial declaration and a message from the Forum to the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa. This declaration was transmitted to the World Summit by the Secretary-General through the Commission on Sustainable Development, which was acting as the preparatory committee for the Summit. The operative part of the ministerial declaration was later incorporated intact in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.[1]

4. The next high-level ministerial segment, held during the fifth session of the Forum, did not adopt a ministerial declaration. Ministers took note of a chair summary of the discussions (see E/2005/42-E/CN.18/2005/18). One major policy recommendation highlighted in that summary was the need to set global forest goals that would serve as a catalyst for action at all levels and stimulate countries to set their own targets to fulfil those commitments.

5. The high-level ministerial segment of the fifth session substantially paved the way for a historic agreement by the General Assembly in 2007 on the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and, later that same year, the global objectives on forests by initiating the negotiation process and transmitting draft negotiating text to the sixth session of the Forum.

[1] See *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex, para. 45. Also available from www.un.org/esa/dsd.

III. Major global development challenges

6. Collective efforts towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals have made inroads in many areas. Prior to 2008, encouraging trends had put many regions on track to achieve at least some of the goals. Nevertheless, progress has been slow and uneven, and the global community has already missed meeting some of the Goals.

7. Analyses indicate that the effects of the global financial crisis are likely to persist: poverty rates will be slightly higher in 2015 and beyond, through 2020, than they would have been had the world economy grown steadily at its pre-crisis pace. As jobs have been lost, more people have been forced into vulnerable employment; in 2009, 60 per cent of those employed were in vulnerable jobs.

8. The devastating impact of climate change looms large, and the risk of death or disability and economic loss as a result of natural disasters and environmental degradation is increasing globally and severely affecting poorer countries. Between the beginning of 2008 and March 2010, 470,000 people were killed as a result of natural disasters. Economic losses were $262 billion during the period 2008-2009.

9. Progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of women has been slow on all fronts, from education to access to political decision-making. Men still outnumber women in paid employment outside of agriculture in almost all regions.

10. Aid remains well below the United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for most donors. In 2009, only Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden had reached or exceeded the target. In 2009, net disbursements of official development assistance (ODA) amounted to $119.6 billion, or 0.31 per cent of the combined national income of developed countries.[2]

11. Deforestation and natural loss of forest continue at an alarming rate in several regions and countries. The area of primary forest is decreasing by about 4 million hectares each year. Employment in forest establishment, management and use declined by about 10 per cent globally between 1990 and 2005.[3] On average, 1 per cent of all forests were reported to be significantly affected each year by forest fires. Infestations of forest insect pests damage some 35 million hectares of forest annually, primarily in the temperate and boreal zones.

12. Globally, the number of staff in public forest institutions is decreasing. Around 1.3 million people were reported to be working in public forest institutions in 2008; 22 per cent of them were female. At the global level, the number of staff has declined by 1.2 per cent annually since 2000. More than 20,000 professionals work in public forest research institutions.

13. The persistence of these and other challenges calls for a much stronger commitment on the part of countries and the whole global community to work together to effectively accelerate their efforts to achieve global development goals,

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[2] Figures cited in the above paragraphs are drawn mainly from the *Millennium Development Goals Gap Task Force Report 2010* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.I.12). Available from www.un.org/millenniumgoals/reports.

[3] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010* (Rome, 2010).

in particular the Millennium Development Goals, by 2015. Without a major push forward, many of the Millennium Development Goal targets are likely to be missed in most regions. Old and new challenges threaten to further slow progress in some areas, or even undo successes achieved so far.

IV. Forests for people

14. "Forests for people" is the overall theme of the ninth session of the Forum. At a time when forests are considered to be a major ingredient in any solution to current global challenges, a focused discussion on this theme among ministers and high-level officials of Member States during the launch of Forests 2011 will provide the Forum with an opportunity to better understand the benefits of all types of forests to all people and all countries, even those countries which lack forests or have small forest areas or trees outside of forests.

15. For there to be a people-centred approach to forests, the key is to take a close look at the interlinkages between forests and issues that have major impacts on the daily lives of people and their future, including poverty eradication, finance, governance, green economies, employment, social integration and global development challenges. In practical terms, forests represent the intersection of all aspects of human life. Forests provide goods and services that are essential for civilizations and crucial for economic development, access to clean water, agricultural productivity, soil conservation and flood control. Forests are home to at least 80 per cent of terrestrial biodiversity and are a major carbon sink for regulating the global climate. Forests contribute intensively to poverty eradication; more than 1.6 billion people worldwide depend on forest resources for their livelihoods.

16. The global objectives on forests, as well as the 2007 non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, are illustrations of an evolution in thinking from a sector-centred approach to forests to a people-centred one. The high-level segment of the Forum's ninth session is the first high-level meeting of the Forum since the adoption of the forest instrument and the global objectives on forests. Moreover, this meeting is being held after the September 2010 High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and before the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (also known as the Rio+20 Conference). In this context, the high-level segment of the Forum's ninth session can be highly significant in addressing the links between forests and other ecosystems and sectors and ensuring that forests play their full part in contributing to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals.

A. Forests and poverty eradication

17. Poverty is a multidimensional condition. It means more than not having an adequate income; it also includes a measure of state of health, level of education, sense of security, quality of governance, respect for justice and human rights, and equality. In many countries, rural poverty is the consequence of the depletion of natural resources upon which previous generations depended. This is seen in increased soil erosion and loss of soil fertility, unrestricted deforestation and diminished water supplies. In terms of their impact on poverty, these factors combine to produce diminished agricultural production and increased food

insecurity, reduced firewood for meeting household energy needs, a lack of adequate water supplies for consumption and sanitation and the loss of valuable forest capital for economic development and environmental stability.

18. Forests contribute directly to the goal of reducing poverty and hunger by providing cash, income, jobs and consumption goods for poor families. According to World Bank estimates, approximately a quarter of the world's poor are dependent on forests for their livelihoods. The livelihoods of the approximately 240 million of the world's poor that live in forested areas of developing countries depend on the protection, and often the rehabilitation, of these forests. What needs to be stressed, however, is that the contributions of forests are not limited to reducing hunger and crisis; rather, when managed sustainably, they can have a greater impact through increased and more sustainable income, resulting in poverty reduction. In Zimbabwe, for example, by collecting and selling baobab seeds to a processing company, local producers doubled the income they had previously earned from growing cotton. In Malawi, households tripled their per capita income from 3,000 kwacha ($22) to 9,000 kwacha ($67) by shifting to sustainable forestry activities, including the rearing of guinea fowl, the production of baobab fruit juice and beekeeping.[4] Moreover, forests contribute to environmental sustainability by providing a variety of environmental services and by furnishing renewable wood and non-wood forest products.[5] Non-timber forest products can also play an important role in gap-filling for the rural poor and, under certain conditions, can serve as a stepping-stone out of poverty.[6]

19. Where forests play a critical role in enabling people to cope with poverty, the rights of people who depend on forests should be safeguarded by providing and securing tenure and access to wood and non-timber forest products. Protecting vulnerable forest-dependent people is an important element of sustainable forest management, as is the creation of an enabling environment for poverty alleviation. As the indigenous populations residing within forest regions represent some of the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world who also have limited access to the outside world, they need specific priority attention. Some important steps need to be taken to ensure that people within forests are protected through land tenure reforms, the provision of financial services for forest activities and the revision of the forest regulations that marginalize poor people.[7]

[4] *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2010* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.I.7). Available from www.un.org/millenniumgoals/reports.

[5] "Experts emphasize forests' contribution to the Millennium Development Goals". Available from www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2005/89264/index.html.

[6] Elaine Marshall, Kathrin Schreckenberg and Adrian Newton, "What contribution does successful non-timber forest product commercialization make to the Millennium Development Goals", and Daniela Gomes Pinto and Peter May, "Supporting community non-timber forest product enterprises in the Amazon", *European Tropical Forest Research Network News*, No. 47-48 (Winter 2006-2007). Available from www.etfrn.org/etfrn/newsletter/news4748.

[7] David Kaimowitz, "Forests and the Millennium Development Goals", *European Tropical Forest Research Network News*, No. 47-48.

B. Forest financing

20. Finance is an integral element of the global partnership for development and sustainable forest management. The resolution of the special session of the ninth session of the Forum on means of implementation (see E/2009/118-E/CN.18/SS/2009/2) set a sound framework that helps countries to avoid a repetition of debate on concepts and measures that have already been agreed, and assists them in narrowing the scope of their differences and approaches, in order to look at forest financing in a very strategic manner. In that resolution, the Forum recognized that financing for forests was not adequate and reaffirmed that forest financing strategies should be inclusive of all types of resources from all sources.

21. The resolution makes cooperation, participation and responsiveness the bedrock for any eventual solution to forest financing. It frames forest financing in the context of global development goals, rather than in the context of a political confrontation between South and North or national versus international resources. The gaps in and needs for forest financing in developing countries, in particular in those countries with special needs, are very much recognized.

22. By adopting that resolution, the Forum laid out a new vision in which financing sustainable forest management was recognized as a critical action for advancing the global development agenda. In that resolution, the Forum specifically mandated the establishment of an open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group to make proposals on strategies to mobilize resources from all sources to support the implementation of sustainable forest management, the achievement of the global objectives on forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, including, inter alia, strengthening and improving access to funds and establishing a voluntary global forest fund, taking into account, inter alia, the results of the Forum's review of the performance of the facilitative process, views of Member States and review of sustainable forest management-related financing instruments and processes.

23. At the same time, the international architecture of financing for forests has undergone major changes. Significant expectations have emerged concerning the potential of forest carbon financing to mobilize unprecedented additional resources and, to a lesser extent, concerning other payment schemes for environmental services to support sustainable forest management. If properly designed, financing related to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD-plus) could be a catalyst for broader and transformative investment in sustainable forest management, including public and private investment.

24. Financing related to REDD-plus offers a great opportunity for forest financing. In spite of its huge potential, REDD-plus financing flows are highly unlikely to address all the gaps and constraints of financing for the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests. Such financing would not address the needs of the huge number of countries with dryland forests. These countries are excluded from REDD-plus resources, in spite of the fact that their forests play a crucial role in water management, erosion control, biodiversity protection and mitigating climate change. In addition, various definitions of sustainable forest management, different interpretations of that concept and a lack of

consensus among countries and organizations on a specific definition has diminished the ability of countries to develop a full comparison of what has been done for forests and what else should be done. There are also concerns that REDD-plus activities in developing countries may become a substitute for the greenhouse gas mitigation commitments of developed countries.

25. The first meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing was held from 13 to 17 September 2010 at the United Nations Office in Nairobi. Discussions in the Expert Group highlighted the need for further collaboration and sharing of experiences among Governments to develop innovative financing mechanisms, as well as deeper collaboration with the private sector, and the need for an enabling environment for private sector investments. The discussions also underscored the need to more substantively engage Governments, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its Advisory Group on Finance in the identification of forest financing options, modalities and their possible structures prior to the second meeting of the Expert Group. Participants in the first meeting felt there was a need for an assessment of different options for the forest financing architecture, including a global forest fund, which will be prepared by the secretariat for the consideration of the second meeting.

C. Forests as a means for social integration and job generation

26. Sustainable forest management has economic, environmental and social dimensions. In efforts to strengthen sustainable forest management, more attention has been given to economic and environmental issues; the social dimension of this work and of its environmental impact have been less explored and understood. There is a growing understanding of the importance of the economic activities of indigenous, community and family forest rights holders, managers and owners and, within and beside these groups, of labour, women and youth.

27. The social dimension of forests is concerned with the quality and extent of the relations that exist among families, communities and regions with regard to forests. These relations are the foundation for sustained progress in forest management practices and the generation and distribution of increased economic benefits from sustainably managed forests. The relative strength or weakness of this foundation has a profound effect on the ability of communities to contribute to lasting improvements in management practices and their resultant improvements in economic benefits, conservation of biodiversity, and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

28. Local communities and people, including indigenous peoples, women and girls, contribute immeasurably to the benefits that derive from sustainable forest management and economic activities based thereon. That contribution can be greatly increased through greater investment in a range of capacities and the integration of these groups into the process of setting, developing and implementing forest policy. Other beneficial measures include improved management skills for forest-dependent people and communities, improved market access and marketing structures and related networks and strengthened forestry extension training and educational programmes.

29. Improved management of scarce environmental and natural resources offers significant economic opportunities. Realizing the opportunities from green growth

and more environmentally sustainable areas of job creation has thus become an important macroeconomic policy priority for many Governments. This implies substantially increased investments across a range of economic sectors that build on and enhance the Earth's natural capital or that reduce ecological and environmental risks.

60. Around 10 million people are employed in forest management and conservation, but many more are directly dependent on forests for their livelihoods. Reported employment in forest establishment, management and use declined by about 10 per cent between 1990 and 2005, probably because of gains in labour productivity. Europe, East Asia and North America saw steep declines (15 to 40 per cent between 1990 and 2005), while in other regions employment increased somewhat. Most countries reported increased employment in the management of protected areas. Given that much forestry employment is outside the formal sector, forest work is surely much more important for rural livelihoods and national economies than the reported figures suggest.

61. Eighty per cent of the world's forests are publicly owned, but the ownership and management of forests by communities, individuals and private companies is on the rise. Despite changes in forest ownership and tenure in some regions, most of the world's forests remain under public ownership. Differences among regions are considerable. North and Central America, Europe (other than the Russian Federation), South America and Oceania have a higher proportion of private ownership than other regions. This proves the significance of the role of Governments in devising appropriate policies and measures that increase the job-generating potential of forests. Of course, in some regions there is an increasing trend towards involving communities, individuals and private companies in the management of publicly owned forests. It is necessary to encourage the greater involvement of these non-public sectors in managing forests, within sound regulatory frameworks to ensure the sustainability of forest resources, as well as the rights of people whose lives are dependent on these forests.

D. Forest governance

62. Significant progress has been made in developing forest policies, forest laws and national forest programmes. Of the 143 countries that have a forest policy statement, 76 countries have issued or updated their statements since 2000. Of the 156 countries that have a specific forest law, 69 countries — primarily in Europe and Africa — reported that their current forest law had been enacted or amended since 2005. Close to 75 per cent of the world's forests are covered by a national forest programme, i.e., a participatory process for the development and implementation of forest-related policies and international commitments at the national level.

63. Good governance, with a clear articulation of the principles of environmental and social responsibility, is a prerequisite for sustainable forest management. Efforts should also be made to improve law enforcement and to curb illegal forest-related activities, which often result in the destruction of ecosystems and deprive forest-dependent communities of their livelihoods.

64. It is necessary to incorporate the voices of people into forest governance if the goal is to ensure that people benefit from forests and to maintain long-term and

sustainable benefits from forests. It is crucial to involve those who live in or in close proximity to forests in decisions about what happens to forests, and to ensure the security of the livelihoods of poor and marginalized peoples that depend on forests. There is growing evidence that transferring authority and responsibility for sustainable forest management to communities leads to both a significant reduction of poverty and improved forest conditions. Studies also show that the shifting of authority and responsibilities has resulted in improvements in livelihoods and forest conditions.[8]

35. Strengthening national legislation and enforcement is another important area. Clarification and strengthening of tenure and access rights related to forest lands and use, decentralization and the promotion of partnerships among Governments, forest owners and communities, industry and trade and civil society also contribute to better forest governance. Countries should be further encouraged to promote certification of origin of timber and timber products, chain-of-custody systems and voluntary codes of conduct, as these are important tools in combating illegal practices in forestry. At the same time, market access to legally and sustainably produced forest products, including public procurement rules, needs to be enhanced, together with the transfer of technology and sharing of experiences.

36. Management, conservation and the sustainable development of all types of forests involve reconciling diverse and sometimes conflicting interests, and are the concern of Governments, public and private owners, managers and other stakeholders. No single agency or class of actors has the knowledge and capacity for enhanced forest management globally. In this context, collaboration among different forest managers and users and at different levels of decision-making related to forests should be promoted, as this is the most effective way to improve the different benefits that forests provide to humans and the planet.

E. Forests and green economies

37. The road towards recovery from the global financial crisis is proving to be long, sinuous and bumpy. After a year of fragile and uneven recovery, growth of the world economy is now decelerating on a broad front, presaging even weaker growth for 2011. The weakness of major developed economies continues to act as a drag on global recovery. There seems to be no quick fix to many of the predicaments these economies are facing in the aftermath of the financial crisis. Credit remains short in supply and, more broadly, financial fragility continues. Unemployment remains elevated and domestic demand is anaemic.[9]

38. In mitigating and responding to the risks posed by these financial challenges, some countries have implemented economic stimulus packages to tackle the crisis and promote a move towards a greener economy. Even though a greening of the global economy, aimed at higher sustainability through the reduction of negative impacts on the environment and climate change, was already under way before the economic crisis, the crisis was seen as an incentive to some Governments to

[8] Rebecca Hardin and Arun Agrawal, "Forests, people and tenure: culture, communities and sustainable development" (Ann Arbor, University of Michigan, September 2010).

[9] Expert Group Meeting on the World Economy (Project LINK) and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, "LINK global economic outlook: October 2010". Available from www.un.org/esa/policy/link/presentations10/geo201010.pdf.

accelerate the process towards building green economies. A green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication will also be a theme of the Rio+20 Conference.

39. There is no agreed definition of a "green economy" at the global level, and the present report does not attempt to define the term. Fundamentally, the concept of a green economy implies linking economic growth and environmental sustainability. It may also imply realizing growth and employment opportunities from less-polluting and more resource-efficient activities, including in the areas of energy, water, waste, buildings, agriculture and forests, as well as managing related structural changes, such as potentially adverse effects on vulnerable households and traditional economic sectors. The question remains, however, whether these are the only issues that countries have to take into consideration in building green economies. One major issue that has to be fully taken into account within the global policy debate on that subject is the fact that the concept of a green economy and the associated policy implications will apply differently in various countries, depending on their national circumstances, priorities and capacities.

40. Whether, as some believe, the greening of the economy is the process of reconfiguring businesses and infrastructure to deliver better returns on natural, human and economic capital investments, while at the same time reducing greenhouse gas emissions, extracting and using less natural resources, creating less waste and reducing social disparities or, as others consider it, just a new way to promote "sustainable development",[10] or to call this "green growth", forests are among the priority areas that are crucial for building green economies.

41. Forests have the strong potential to contribute to a greener economy and a more sustainable society. If a more sustainable society is to be achieved, there is definitely a need to refocus the global economy towards investments in protecting and sustainably managing natural resources, such as forests, as well as green industries and technologies. These are conducive to sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

42. There is a growing awareness and understanding by policymakers of the potential of forests for development in and contribution to green economies. Forests can make significant contributions towards building green economies in different ways, including through the mitigation of climate change impacts; the conservation of natural resources through the protection and delivery of water resources; the protection and enhancement of biodiversity, and the introduction of schemes of payments for environmental services; and by providing other social, environmental and economic services, as discussed earlier in the present report. Building green economies also means reducing social disparities by fully realizing the potential of forests for creating green jobs.

43. Building green economies also provides necessary space for realizing the full potential of forests in generating more green and decent jobs, especially in the light of the fact that the total number of jobs in the forest sector is expected to further decrease. The share of green jobs in the forest sector should increase with the transition towards green economies. There are other environmental services from

[10] See United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, "The forest sector in the green economy", Geneva Timber and Forest Discussion Paper No. 54 (Geneva, 2009), sect. 2.1.

forests beyond timber which should be better recognized and compensation provided for. There is a need for better communication regarding the role of forests in raising awareness about the interlinkages between forests and green economies. The right balance needs to be found between what should be dealt with by markets and what requires the "involvement" of Governments. This raises the issue of the extent to which the private sector needs public incentives to foster some green activities.

44. Governments need to have long-term visions in order to enable a real shift towards green economies that benefit fully from the potential of forests. Essential in this regard are designing the appropriate mix and balance of different types of policy measures that ensure the best possible use of forests and forest services. As energy, climate change and agricultural policies will likely have longer-term effects on forests, there is a need to ensure policy coherence both within and among sectors.

45. The long-term development of the forest sector and its ability to improve social welfare will depend on, among other things, the extent to which its roles are recognized and supported by political will and adequate policies. The future of the forest sector, however, will be determined not only by the will of Governments to make the sector a priority on their agendas, but also by the sector's ability to improve the efficiency of wood use and to continue developing innovative and better marketed products in order to seize the opportunity of growing demand for green products. It is therefore important to know how countries can enhance the contribution of forests to green economies and how forests can at the same time benefit from increased green public spending in related fields. In this context, increasing cooperation with other sectors, such as the energy, building and water management and environment sectors, is essential.

46. Encouraging the transition to green economies requires a broad range of financial, regulatory, institutional and technological measures. Public expenditure — current spending, as well as capital investments in public infrastructure and research and development — also plays a critical role in shaping economic development. This is a specific area in which the capacity of developing countries needs to be strengthened.

V. Forests: a multidimensional issue with broad implications across sectors

47. Quite apart from directly consumable goods upon which hundreds of millions of families depend — timber, firewood, fodder, food, medicine and non-timber forest products — forests also provide other incalculable indirect benefits and services, including carbon storage, biodiversity conservation, disease containment and the regulation of hydrological, carbon and various nutrient cycles. Some of these benefits are public, others private; some are local, others global; and some are immediate, others long term. Appropriate management is critical in order for forests to continue to produce these diverse goods and services that are necessary for life and sustainability.

48. Forests cover 31 per cent of the world's total land area.[11] The five most forest-rich countries (the Russian Federation, Brazil, Canada, the United States of America and China) account for more than half of the total forest area. Ten countries or areas have no forest at all, and an additional 54 have forest on less than 10 per cent of their total land area. Around 13 million hectares of forest were converted to other uses or lost through natural causes each year in the past decade, compared with 16 million hectares per year in the 1990s.

49. The area of planted forests is increasing and now accounts for 7 per cent of total forest area. Between 2000 and 2010, the area of planted forests increased by about 5 million hectares per year. Most of this was established through afforestation (i.e., the planting of areas that were not forested in recent times). Three quarters of all planted forests consist of native species, while one quarter comprises introduced species. The large-scale planting of trees is significantly reducing the net loss of forest area globally.

50. Twelve per cent of the world's forests are designated for the conservation of biological diversity, an increase of more than 95 million hectares since 1990. These forests now account for 12 per cent of the total forest area, or more than 460 million hectares. Most, but not all, of them are located inside protected areas. Legally established protected areas cover an estimated 13 per cent of the world's forests. The area of forests within protected area systems has increased by 94 million hectares since 1990; two thirds of this increase has been since 2000.

51. Eight per cent of the world's forests have the protection of soil and water resources as their primary management objective. Around 330 million hectares of forest are designated for soil and water conservation, avalanche control, sand dune stabilization, desertification control or coastal protection. The area of forest designated for protective functions increased by 59 million hectares between 1990 and 2010, primarily because of large-scale planting in China aimed at desertification control, conservation of soil and water resources and other protective purposes.

52. Around 949 million hectares, or 24 per cent of all forests, are designated for multiple use, i.e., managed for any combination of the production of goods, the protection of soil and water, the conservation of biodiversity and the provision of social services, or are considered to have none of these uses alone as their predominant function. More than 1.6 billion hectares of forest are covered by a management plan. The area of forest covered by such plans, an important tool for achieving sustainable forest management, is steadily increasing, yet information is available for only 80 per cent of the total area of such forests.

53. The management of forests for social and cultural functions is increasing, but it is difficult to quantify the area managed in this way. The only subregions and regions with fairly good data on the designation of forests for recreation, tourism, education or conservation of cultural and spiritual heritage are East Asia and Europe, where provision of such social services was reported as the primary management objective for 3 and 2 per cent of total forest area, respectively. Brazil has designated more than one fifth of its forest area for the protection of the culture and way of life of forest-dependent people. Globally, 4 per cent of the world's forests are designated for the provision of social services.

[11] Figures in paras. 48 to 55 are from Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010* (see footnote 3).

54. According to the *Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010*, carbon emissions from forests have been reduced in recent years, as a result of the decrease in the rate of deforestation, combined with the large-scale planting of new forests. There is now unprecedented awareness of the role that forests play in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

55. There are many good signs and positive trends at the global level concerning forests, particularly in the past 10 years, but many negative trends remain at the regional, subregional and national levels. While the area of planted forests and conservation efforts are on the rise, the area of primary forests continues to decline at an alarming rate as these forests come under use or are converted to other uses. Forests under private ownership and the value of wood products showed a positive trend for the period 2000-2005.

56. The positive developments noted above confirm the vision enshrined in the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, namely of demonstrating the potential of forests for all aspects of human life. The instrument and its four objectives are major achievements of the international community. They were adopted by the General Assembly[12] after the Millennium Summit of 2000 and the World Summit of 2005. The instrument symbolizes the beginning of a new era of international cooperation on forests, not as a sector but rather as a vital cross-cutting issue and ecosystem that advances the global development agenda, as shown by the most recent data and statistics.

57. Recognition of the important role of forests for global development goals has not been limited to the Forum. In fact, the Forum has been quite successful in bringing the significance of forests in addressing global challenges to the attention of the political officials at the highest levels. In September 2010, five years from the target date for the Millennium Development Goals, leaders from around the world gathered at the United Nations and undertook a comprehensive review of progress and together charted a course for accelerated action on the Goals between now and 2015. During the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, world leaders agreed on a comprehensive outcome in which they gave significant attention to forests. By referring to the global objectives on forests, world leaders essentially integrated the global objectives on forests into the outcome of the High-level Meeting, thereby recognizing the value and contribution that forests provide to the global development agenda.

VI. Forests 2011 and Rio+20: golden opportunities

58. In its resolution 61/193 of 20 December 2006, the General Assembly, convinced that concerted efforts to raise awareness at all levels to strengthen the sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests for the benefit of current and future generations, declared 2011 the International Year of Forests (Forests 2011) and called upon Governments, relevant regional and international organizations and major groups to support activities related to the year (see E/CN.18/2011/7).

59. Forests 2011 offers a unique opportunity to raise public awareness of the challenges facing many of the world's forests and the people who depend on them,

[12] See resolution 62/98, annex.

as well as a means of promoting North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation. Great success stories and valuable lessons on how to promote sustainable forest management already exist. Forests 2011 provides a means of bringing those voices together and building momentum towards greater public participation in forest activities around the world.

60. During the International Year of Forests, Governments; United Nations agencies, funds and programmes; regional and international organizations; and major groups should contribute to and participate in the activities envisaged for its observance. They should also link their relevant activities to the International Year, establish voluntary partnerships and promote the observance of Forests 2011 not as an isolated event but as part of a continuing process of advocacy and partnership to foster greater awareness and action towards sustainable forest management at all levels.

61. In its resolution 64/236 of 24 December 2009, the General Assembly decided to organize the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, also known as the Rio+20 Conference, in 2012 in Brazil. According to that resolution, the objective of the Conference was to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, assessing the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development and addressing new and emerging challenges.

62. Also in that resolution, the General Assembly decided that the Conference should result in a focused political document, and that the focus of the Conference would include the following themes, to be discussed and refined during the preparatory process: a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and the institutional framework for sustainable development.

63. Further to that resolution, the General Assembly decided that the Commission on Sustainable Development would postpone consideration of the thematic cluster of issues that includes forests by one year, from 2012-2013 to 2013-2014. Accordingly, the Commission would review the implementation of actions and commitments on forests under Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation in 2013 (normally early May) and would enter policy negotiations on forests in 2014 (normally in May). At the same time, the tenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, in 2013, will decide on the issue of forest financing, and the eleventh session, in 2015, will decide on the future "international arrangement on forests". In this context, it is necessary to take advantage of this continuity in order to address forests through different mechanisms and processes. There is also, however, the need to avoid the duplication and confusion of responsibilities among different bodies, and to recognize the unique role of the United Nations Forum on Forests within the United Nations system in forest policy setting. The Forum proposes practical measures and identifies policy options and recommendations concerning forests for other bodies and commissions of the United Nations, as well as for the global community.

64. The high-level ministerial segment of the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests is the most effective tool for the Forum to forward the substantive input of the highest-level forest policymaking officials to the Rio+20 Conference. As a matter of fact, this is the only opportunity for the Forum to do so before that Conference takes place. Fortunately, the ministerial segment of the second session of the Forum has already set the precedent by providing substantive input on forests

to the Johannesburg Summit in 2002. Given the current significant attention being paid to forests at the highest political levels, the high-level ministerial segment of the Forum's ninth session has a historic responsibility to ensure that its outcome: (a) addresses the challenges that threaten forests; (b) explores opportunities for forests; and (c) maximizes the contribution of forests to addressing global development challenges.

65. To this end, a ministerial declaration from the high-level ministerial segment of the ninth session is strongly recommended, and should be considered a matter of priority. The ministerial segment should adopt a comprehensive declaration, not only as an input to the Rio+20 Conference but also as a commitment to look at the broader development landscape, and in particular the ways that forests contribute to building a sustainable and prosperous future for all mankind. Such an input to the Rio+20 Conference should also recognize the role of the Forum as the most widely representative and leading global body on forests.

VII. Conclusions

66. There is a need for a new paradigm concerning the interaction and linkages between people and precious natural resources. Forests are deeply entwined with other sectors of society, and their management requires coordinated efforts and cross-sectoral and inter-ministerial approaches. In recent years, there has been an increasing tendency to look beyond the needs of the forest sector when considering forests and their potential. Forests have incredible potential to help the global community to address and diminish the impacts of major global challenges, such as the energy, food, water, desertification, climate change and financial crises.

67. Undoubtedly, the multiple values of forests are now recognized more than ever. Forests have a critical potential to decrease the enormous gap between the richest and the poorest households, if the appropriate policy framework and enforcement are in place. It is important to promote a path to deliver the key message derived from the shared theme of the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests and Forests 2011 of "forests for people" by promoting a 360-degree perspective on forests that embraces all: the social, environmental, economic, cultural and spiritual services of forests.

68. The first-ever international comprehensive agreement on forests, the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the global objectives on forests, are the important contribution of the Forum to the global sustainable development agenda and the fight against poverty. They have played important roles in devising a comprehensive approach to forests and helping to clearly define the contribution of forests to the internationally agreed development goals.

69. This instrument is the first-ever comprehensive and action-oriented global strategy for achieving sustainable forest management, and contains specific actions, objectives, timelines and anticipated means for all relevant stakeholders at all levels. It is important to devise the necessary tools and mechanisms to deliver the commitments and actions contained in this instrument, and to strengthen its implementation and the achievement of the global objectives on forests as a matter of high priority. The instrument and the global objectives on forests are effective tools to enhance natural resource management, and to foster pro-poor development, long-term green investment and employment opportunities for all countries.

70. The participation, engagement and inclusion of those who make an impact on forest policies, as well as those who feel the impact of such policies, in designing and implementing forest regulations and rules are of vital importance, and will ensure the effectiveness of such policies. It is equally important to recognize the role played by regional processes, civil society, the private sector and major stakeholder groups in promoting sustainable forest management worldwide.

71. The declining flows of ODA to the forest sector need to be reversed by focusing on the multiple functions, goods and services provided by forests, as well as their contribution to achieving internationally agreed development goals.

72. Financing under REDD-plus offers a significant opportunity for forest financing. Such financing is spread across countries and sectors, so it is important to understand the potential gaps, obstacles, opportunities and additionality of such funding. It is extremely important to assess the following: how to improve the effectiveness and transparency of existing REDD-plus initiatives; how to ensure broader application of forest financing to the huge number of countries that are currently excluded from REDD-plus financing; and how to make sure that policy advice, guidance and recommendations of the Forum are included in the operational programmes of REDD-plus financing initiatives.

73. Forest governance is an important building block for sustainable forest management. It is important to enhance the transparency of governmental policies and actions directed towards forest law enforcement and combating illegal logging, and to promote an enabling environment as a necessary foundation for fully exploring the potential of forests for the sustainable livelihoods of people.

74. To ensure coherent efforts at the national level, clear linkages between national forest programmes and other plans, including in poverty reduction strategy papers, are essential. National forest programmes must clearly identify the relevance and potential role of trees and forests in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and highlight opportunities for scaling up good initiatives.

75. The world leaders who attended the September 2010 High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals called for strengthening political commitments and action at all levels to effectively implement the global objectives on forests and the sustainable management of all types of forests in order to reduce the loss of forest cover and improve the livelihoods of those that depend on forests. They called for doing so in the following ways: the development of a comprehensive and more effective approach to financing activities; the involvement of local and indigenous communities and other relevant stakeholders; promoting good governance at the national and international levels; and enhancing international cooperation to address the threats posed by illicit activities.

76. The Rio+20 Conference and Forests 2011 provide extraordinary opportunities to strengthen political commitment and promote international cooperation in advancing the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the achievement of the global objectives on forests, through concrete and specific initiatives on the ground involving interested Governments and stakeholders, including the private sector, indigenous and local communities and non-governmental organizations.

VIII. Recommendations

77. The Forum may wish to:

(a) **Recognize the role of forests and trees in the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including their benefits for the livelihoods of over a billion people living in extreme poverty and their vital role in promoting climatic stability, conserving biological diversity and protecting coastlines, watersheds and soil;**

(b) **Advance implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, as well as achievement of the global objectives on forests at all levels, as an effective means of advancing the global development agenda;**

(c) **Reaffirm the unique leading role of the United Nations Forum on Forests, within the United Nations system, in forest policy setting and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and in the achievement of the global objectives on forests at the national, regional and global levels;**

(d) **Invite all Governments, international and regional organizations, major groups and other relevant stakeholders to take immediate steps towards implementing the outcome of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, in particular with respect to forests;**

(e) **Recognize the significance of forests in moving towards sustainable development and the formation of green economies, and invite countries to promote green economic development through investment in sustainable forest-related industries and a fair multilateral trading system that allows countries to take advantage of the opportunities provided thereby;**

(f) **Emphasize that efforts to build green economies should result in improved human well-being and social equity while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities and advancing achievement of global development goals, in particular poverty eradication, both nationally and internationally;**

(g) **Highlight the importance of the enabling environment and means of implementation for promoting sustainable forest management, and call for strengthening cooperation in the areas of finance, trade, transfer of environmentally sound technology and capacity-building;**

(h) **Accelerate cooperation in addressing the financing needs of countries, in particular developing countries with special needs and circumstances, in order to sustainably manage their forests and take actions to incentivize the protection and conservation of natural forests and their ecosystem services, as crucial factors to mitigate climate change and reduce the loss of forest resources;**

(i) **Renew its commitment to finding a lasting solution to forest financing during its tenth session, as envisaged in the resolution of the special session of its ninth session on means of implementation, and to support the intersessional activities on forest financing, as reflected in the report of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing;**

(j) **Promote cooperation on forest law enforcement and governance, invite Member States to improve the access of local communities to markets and strengthen the inclusion of local people, including indigenous peoples and women, in decision-making, benefit-sharing and preservation of their cultural and social values, as a means of enhancing the economic, social and environmental values of forests for the benefit of present and future generations;**

(k) **Recognize the importance of REDD-plus financing as a new opportunity for forest financing, the need for understanding the implications of REDD-plus financing for broader forest financing and whether such financing will cover the broader financing needs for forests;**

(l) **Invite REDD-plus initiatives to take full advantage of the policy recommendations of the United Nations Forum on Forests, as the only forest policy setting universal body in the United Nations, in their activities and programmes;**

(m) **Emphasize the importance of the evolving concept of sustainable forest management provided in the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests as a global expression, agreed by the United Nations and widely accepted, of sustainable forest management;**

(n) **Call for enhancing cooperation with relevant instruments, intergovernmental organizations and public and private processes, both within and outside the United Nations system;**

(o) **Invite the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to strengthen its support for the work of the Forum and contribute actively to the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the achievement of the global objectives on forests, including through providing technical and financial resources and ensuring that measures to support the implementation of the instrument and the achievement of the objectives therein are addressed by their governing bodies;**

(p) **Invite countries to fully integrate their national forest programmes with broader national priorities and development-planning programmes and plans, including poverty-reduction strategies;**

(q) **Further invite Member States, international and regional organizations and development banks, major groups and other relevant partners to use the International Year of Forests and the Rio+20 Conference and its preparatory processes as important platforms for highlighting the multiple advantages of sustainable forest management and for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, through the announcement of new initiatives and commitments;**

(r) **Encourage Member States, member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other relevant stakeholders, in cooperation with the Secretariat, to actively engage in and contribute to the preparatory process of the Rio+20 Conference, as well as during the International Year of Forests, including by convening various meetings, events and workshops to further discuss and elaborate the potential of forests with**

regard to, for example, eradicating poverty and promoting sustainable livelihoods for people, resulting in the building of true green economies;

(s) Invite the Rio+20 Conference to:

(i) Reiterate the potential of forests with regard to the achievement of sustainable development goals and targets and the role of forests in promoting sustainable development and the eradication of poverty through contributing to building green economies;

(ii) Support the United Nations Forum on Forests and its multi-year programme of work and recognize the added value provided by the Forum, in particular the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the global objectives on forests;

(iii) Further support the ongoing work of the Forum on forest finance and provide a major political boost for solid conclusions on forest financing at the tenth session of the Forum, in 2013;

(t) Request the Secretary-General to transmit the outcome of the high-level ministerial segment of the ninth session of the Forum to the Rio+20 Conference.